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CONSUMER ALERT

NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

As the tax season comes to a close, beware of any call you receive from someone saying they are from the IRS.

They'll try to trick you into sharing private information, and often alter the caller ID so it looks like the call is coming from the IRS office in Washington. They will often threaten to bring in the police or foreclose on your home if you don't cooperate. **The IRS will never employ any of these tactics.** They have formal procedures in place to resolve tax issues and never resort to "shake-downs".

Watch out for these signs of a scam:

- The caller demands immediate payment – the IRS will never call about taxes owed without first mailing you a bill and giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount
- Require that you use a prepaid debit card for your payment
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone
- Threaten to have you arrested for non-payment of taxes

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, here's what to do:

- If you believe you were the victim of a scam, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-366-4484 or online at www.tigta.gov.
- File a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant: choose "Other" and then "Imposter Scams". Include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes. Or you can call the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP
- If you think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Beware of any unsolicited email, text or other contact about your taxes!